

# Cloud Cover and Contrail Cover Protocol

## Field Guide

### Task

Observe how much of the sky is covered by clouds and contrails.

### What You Need

☐ [Integrated 1-Day Data Sheet](#) OR [Cloud Data Sheet](#) OR [Ozone Data Sheet](#) OR [Aerosol Data Sheet](#)

### In the Field

1. Complete the top section of your Data Sheet.
2. Look at the sky in every direction.
3. Estimate how much of the sky is covered by clouds that are not contrails.
4. Record which cloud classification best matches what you see.
5. Record which contrail classification best matches how much of the sky is covered by contrails.

<b>Cloud Cover Classifications</b>	<b>Contrail Classifications</b>
No Clouds The sky is cloudless; no clouds are visible.	None There are no contrails visible.
Clear Clouds are present but cover less than one-tenth (or 10%) of the sky.	0-10 % Contrails are present but cover less than one-tenth (or 10%) of the sky.
Isolated Clouds Clouds cover between one-tenth (10%) and one-fourth (25%) of the sky.	10-25 % Contrails cover between one-tenth (10%) and one-fourth (25%) of the sky.
Scattered Clouds Clouds cover between one-fourth (25%) and one-half (50%) of the sky.	25-50% Contrails cover between one-fourth (25%) and one-half (50%) of the sky.
Broken Clouds Clouds cover between one-half (50%) and nine-tenths (90%) of the sky.	> 50% Contrails cover more than one-half (50%) of the sky.
Overcast Clouds cover more than nine-tenths (90%) of the sky.	
Obscured Clouds and contrails cannot be observed because more than one-fourth (25%) of the sky cannot be seen clearly.	

6. If the sky is Obscured, record what is blocking your view of the sky. Report as many of the following as you observe.

• Fog    • Smoke    • Haze    • Volcanic Ash    • Dust  
• Sand    • Spray    • Heavy Rain    • Heavy Snow    • Blowing Snow